March 18, 1976

interested in increased number of livestock as they are in making a profit on that livestock that they are producing. I know that I have bored you many times with these figures. But, the livestock business in Nebraska today is not healthy. It has lost money many times in the last three years, large amounts of money. In order to support a college of veterinary medicine, in order to support a vibrant livestock industry, the livestock industry has got to make some money. Someone has got to pay the taxes to support these institutions. Livestock is basic to Nebraska. Now, the facts are, if you visit with the veterinarians, you will find that many of large operators do a lot of their own veterinary work. need the diagnostic lab and the research lab. They need that very much because it aids and abets them. It aids their local veterinarians who serve them. But, they are most concerned that we do not detract those facilities that are designated towards research and diagnostic, because that is very basic to animal health in Nebraska. I would also suggest that Dr. Cole refers to the tremendous gap in the number of slots available for veterinary students and that the capitation money as he refers to just flows automatically to the states. This amount of money may not just flow automatically. I have contacted most of the states who have schools of veterinary medicine. Most of them of course are concerned about Nebraska's consideration of that school. I would suggest that they are concerned for many reasons. First of all they are aware that Nebraska, Iowa...pardon me, Nebraska, Colorado...again, Nebraska the two Dakota's, Montana, and Wyoming build a school and capitation grants may not be increased but might very well be divided upon the new schools. I would hope, and I know that Senator Marvel has some figures in this area, capitation grants for the medical school I believe he told me have decreased by about four million dollars in the past year, so we do not need to be very easily reassured, I am sure, that federal money flows automatically and easily for these projects. Once they are established they're our baby, and if the federal government decides to cut out the funding, I'm sure that all of us are aware that agriculture has no clout with the federal government. We are the low man on the totem pole. I think that we want to recognize that when we go to the federal trough for federal dollars because we are just not going to get them. I would hope that this school could become a reality. I would hope that we can, if it is necessary, build a school. I think that before we say "yes, we will build a school", we need to have firm commitments from the other four states that they are also as interested as we are. I think that we need to have firm commitments as to the cost. Not only construction, but to the actual amount of money that can be committed by the other states for capital construction and for operational We have built many structures, and I am going to offer an amendment to budget bills that have to do with that. We have built many structures where the original cost is not the greatest cost. The cost of operation becomes the most heavy burden that we can bear. Once you build it, you have to maintain it...you have to heat it, you have to staff it. We have not yet staffed the veterinary science building and I don't know how we are going to go about staffing the diagnostic lab. But, those faculties need to be filled. There are five new schools of veterinary medicine, either under